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JUNE 1-10, 1911.

Diseases.	New cases.	Deaths.	Remain- ing under treat- ment.
Tuberculosis.....	53	76	2,364
Leprosy.....	2	2	354
Malaria.....	28	5	110
Typhoid fever.....	26	7	81
Diphtheria.....	13	1	14
Scarlet fever.....	8		14
Measles.....	129	5	225
Varicella.....	7		38
Tetanus in the new born.....	10	9	1
Filariasis.....			2

No quarantinable diseases were reported in the Republic during the week ended July 8.

FRANCE.

Marseille—Cholera.

The American consul reports July 19 the occurrence of 4 cases of cholera with 2 deaths. One case originated in Italy.

GERMAN EMPIRE.

Measures at German Ports Against Cholera.

By order of the imperial chancellor dated June 24, vessels arriving at German ports from Naples are declared to be subject, with their passengers and crews, to sanitary inspection on account of cholera before being admitted to free pratique.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Rat Plague in London.

The following statement relative to rat plague in London was received from Consul General Griffiths:

Plague has again made its appearance among the rats of the port of London. The infection was discovered at a wharf on the Thames at Wapping, one of the districts in the east of London.

In the London Times of June 17, 1911, an article is published in reference to the rat plague in London, extracts from which article appear below:

There can be no indiscretion in making the discovery public, for the recurring presence of plague among rats in the lower reaches of the Thames is already common knowledge. In the report recently issued by Dr. Williams, medical officer of health for the port of London, the fact is proclaimed, as a warning, in all the emphasis of capital letters. Dr. Williams says in large type that plague has "occurred amongst the rats in the district for three years in succession." The danger, if there is a danger, lies not in publicity, but in unwise attempts to suppress the facts. There has never yet been an outbreak of plague in any country when the authorities have not tried at first to preserve secrecy. There has never been an occasion when they have not afterwards had cause to rue their ill-advised reticence.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the present existence of infection, which is believed to be extremely limited, presents no cause for public alarm, though it indicates the necessity for caution. In October and November of last year, three rats which had died of plague were found near the Seamen's Hospital in the Royal Albert dock. So far as is known, the outbreak did not spread. In 1909 rats died of plague in the Southwest India Dock, and in 1908 at the West India Dock. In each case the

infection seemed to have been isolated. The new and possibly somewhat ominous fact is that, so far as can be ascertained, the infection has been found nearly 2 miles farther up the river than it has ever reached before. If previous experience is repeated and the outbreak is successfully isolated there need be no apprehension. On the other hand, the discovery may indicate a steadily increasing radius of infection. Was the infection brought in a ship, or has it passed along the area which separates Wapping from the lower docks? That is the point toward which the investigations of the authorities are no doubt being directed.

It must be remembered that plague among rats, as well as among men, is essentially a seasonal disease. In England, as past records show, the plague season is likely to be the late summer and autumn, when rat fleas are most prevalent. The long spell of hot, dry weather through which we have been passing favors the increasing prevalence of rat fleas, and therefore may assist the spread of plague when an infection has been established.

The wharf where the plague rats were discovered has a timber landing stage, with a couple of tall warehouses attached. It is frequented by vessels from foreign ports, though not, it is believed, by ships from plague-stricken localities. On Friday week six dead rats were found at the wharf, and on Tuesday six more dead rats were found. Some of these rats were sent to the Local Government Board for examination. The tests are not yet complete, but it is known that four of them have been found to have died of plague.

The statement that one of the rats died of bubonic plague and the other from the pneumonic variety of the disease is of little practical importance. Many plague rats show on examination that their lungs have been affected, and very often they betray no signs of buboes. So long as the intermediary host of infection remains the rat flea it does not matter very much whether rats have died from the pneumonic or the bubonic form. The only essential point is the possibility of the transmission of infection to human beings, and the character of the complaint in the rat does not affect this possibility, for the bacillus is in all cases the same. The statement about pneumonic plague therefore need carry no unnecessary alarm.

The existence of plague in wharves and warehouses, which are not inhabited at night, may be regarded with comparative equanimity, so long as it does not spread to the rats in the plexus of mean streets which lie behind. Nevertheless, the Stepney authorities, guided by the local government board, are taking careful precautions. The sanitary staff of the Stepney borough council has commenced a house-to-house visitation in the neighborhood, and the inhabitants are being warned not to handle dead rats if any are found. All the managers of riverside wharves near the infected area have been duly notified and the medical men of the district have been requested to watch for any suspicious cases of illness among their patients. Little anxiety exists about the chance of possible transmission to human beings. The public health organization is so complete and alert that human cases could probably be very quickly isolated if they occurred. The real cause for anxiety is of another kind. If human cases occur they must be notified to the foreign powers who are signatory to the Venice and Paris Conventions concerning plague. In that event London would be declared an infected port for a prescribed number of days after the cases were noted, and the resulting interruption to the shipping trade would be grave.

While the recurrence in the port of London of an infection which has been already noted in three successive years can be regarded without excitement it has its serious aspects. It can not be too strongly urged that the mere presence of plague in England among rats, in however limited a form, may become a matter of sinister importance. If the Wapping outbreak marks a slowly widening circle of infection it would be in exact accord with Indian experience, for plague has sometimes taken months, or even years, to pass through the rats of a single village. So long as the rats are infected there must always be some danger to mankind.

In East Anglia, according to the statement made by the medical officer of the East Suffolk County council, no plague rat has been found since January. We have yet to learn what organized attempt has been made to discover the presence of plague in East Anglia since the brief period of careful examination early in the year.

HAWAII.

Record of Plague Infection.

The last case of human plague at Honolulu occurred July 12, 1910.

The last plague-infected rat was found at Aiea, 9 miles from Honolulu, April 12, 1910.